

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Julie Beckett)	
)	
Certificate 211033)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 8, 2005. On December 30, 2004, the Office of Teacher Certification sent Julie Beckett a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Beckett received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Beckett did not request a hearing during the period specified by the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Beckett's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Beckett held a contract for the 2004-2005 school year with the Greenville County School District (District). On October 18, 2004, Ms. Beckett notified her principal at Greenville Senior High School that she intended to resign from her position, effective that day. By letter dated October 25, 2004, the District's Superintendent wrote to Ms. Beckett advising her that her reason for resigning was not acceptable under the District's guidelines for release from her contract with the District. On November 9, 2004, the District Board of Trustees voted to request that the State Board suspend Ms. Beckett's certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Beckett breached her contract with the Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of Ms. Beckett's certificate 211033 for a period of one year, from February 8, 2005, through February 9, 2006. Should Ms. Beckett wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

February 8, 2005